

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ARA-06 /083 W
----- 034642

R 270922Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4984

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NG, SF, US

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN SENATOR'S CLAIM OF US ASSURANCES TO
SOUTH AFRICA ON ANGOLA

REF: CAPE TOWN 167 (NOTAL)

1. MUCH QUOTED AND STILL CONTROVERSIAL "STATEMENT" BY
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARTY SENATOR DENNIS WORRALL, IMPLYING
THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA OCCURRED AFTER
CERTAIN US ASSURANCES, WAS NOT A FORMAL STATEMENT BUT WAS
OFF-THE-CUFF ANSWER TO QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY STUDENTS
DURING PRE-CAMPAIGN MEETING FOR DURBAN-NORTH BY-ELECTION.
ACCUSED OF SAYING MORE IN POLITICAL MEETING THAN SAG
MINISTERS HAVE CONFIDED TO PARLIAMENT, WORRALL CHARGES
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PRESS WITH OMITTING FACT THAT HE WAS CITING PRESS REPORTS.

LATER PRESS STORIES RETORT THAT TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS APPEARS TO RECORD NO SUCH CITATION. WORRALL, HARD PRESSED TO GET ANYONE TO BACK UP HIS OWN VERSION, HAS DEMANDED THAT RECORDING OF HIS REMARKS BE PRODUCED, HINTING THAT PORTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN ERASED. IN RESPONSE, SENATOR BAMFORD OF OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY (PRP) HAS SAID HE WILL ASK FOR ORIGINAL TAPE FROM LOCAL PRP OFFICIAL WHO RECORDED REMARKS.

2. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FOLLOWING TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT FROM PRESS SOURCE WHO PRESUMABLY GOT IT FROM FRIENDS IN PRP. SOURCE EXPLAINS THAT TRANSCRIPT BEGINS ABRUPTLY WITH ANSWER TO QUESTION THAT WAS NOT RECORDED. (CONCLUDING PORTION, DEALING WITH EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF SA TROOPS AGAINST CUBANS, OMITTED BY EMBASSY.)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: QUOTE. WE WERE GIVEN CERTAIN ASSURANCES BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SECONDLY, IT WAS APPROACHED BY THE LEADER OF UNITA, SAVIMBI, WHO REQUESTED ASSISTANCE. DR. SAVIMBI HAS ADMITTED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ACTED ABSOLUTELY CORRECTLY IN RELATION TO THE ANGOLAN SITUATION.

DR. SAVIMBI APPROACHED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WITH A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. HE VISITED SOUTH AFRICA TWICE, ONCE TO PRETORIA WHERE HE TALKED TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND ONCE WHEN HE MET SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SAID IT WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN THE ANGOLAN SITUATION UNLESS DR. SAVIMBI'S REQUEST WAS SUPPORTED BY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND THAT SUPPORT WAS FORTHCOMING FROM ZAMBIA, ZAIRE, AND THE IVORY COAST. THOSE COUNTRIES SAID IN FACT, "WE URGE YOU TO GIVE SUPPORT TO UNITA." MOREOVER, ON THE SECOND OCCASION, WHEN SOUTH AFRICA IN FACT DECIDED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA, DR. SAVIMBI WENT TO KAUNDA, AND IT WAS DR. KAUNDA WHO THEN APPROACHED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND SAID, "LOOK, THIS IS AN URGENT MATTER; WILL YOU IN FACT CONTINUE TO GIVE ASSISTANCE," AND SO THAT ASSISTANCE WAS GIVEN AND IT WAS A VERY LIMITED ASSISTANCE.

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ON DECEMBER 24, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT DECIDED TO WITHDRAW; IT WAS AGAIN REQUESTED BY DR. SAVIMBI AND OTHERS TO IN FACT STAY IN AND IT KEPT APPROXIMATELY 1500 TO 1800 TROOPS IN ANGOLA...(PORTION UNINTELLIGABLE)... THAT WAS CHRISTMAS TIME. THE ARRANGEMENT WAS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST UNITA UNTIL AFTER THE OAU SUMMIT. NOW THERE ARE CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL THINGS ABOUT THE SITUATION. THOSE ARE THE FACTS.

WHY DID THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT NOT TELL THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE ALL THIS AT THE PARTICULAR TIME? BECAUSE THE FACT IS, IF YOU WOULD HAVE HAD UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND YOU WOULD HAVE HAD CONDEMNATIONS OF SA, YOU WOULD HAVE HAD THE WHOLE COMMUNIST WORLD ORGANIZE IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE. WITH THE SUPPORT, MARK YOU, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SOUTH AFRICA WAS COMING TO THE ASSISTANCE OF WHAT WAS REGARDED AT THE TIME AND WHAT IS STILL REGARDED AS AN ALLIED INTEREST IN ANGOLA. THIS IS THE FIRST POINT TO MAKE, AND THE SECOND POINT IS THIS: ONE MUST ASSUME A CERTAIN MEASURE OF TRUST IN A GOVERNMENT, A CERTAIN MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE, AND A CERTAIN MEASURE OF FAITH, BECAUSE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS IT IS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY, THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT WHICH DETERMINES WHAT PRECISELY IS IN SA'S VITAL INTERESTS. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER TRANSCRIPT WAS COMPLETE OR NOT, IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT WORRALL, INFLUENCED BY PUBLIC INNUENDOS OF SAG CABINET MINISTERS AND POSSIBLY BY NATIONAL PARTY CAUCUS BRIEFINGS TO BELIEVE THAT SOME KIND OF ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN BY US AND THAT SOME KIND OF COORDINATION MUST HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN US AND SAG, MADE OFF-THE-CUFF ASSERTIONS THAT HE COULD NOT BACK UP AS THEY WENT FURTHER THAN SAG HAS BEEN WILLING TO GO IN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS. EDMONDSON

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